

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122577
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122577

IMDIS, FOR CHARGE FROM HARROP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN,ET, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CULTURAL PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2132

1. APPRECIATE VERY MUCH EXCELLENT REPORT REFTEL. I WAS QUITE IMPRESSED DURING FEBRUARY VISIT BY THE DEPTH OF THE HISTORICAL AMERICAN CULTURAL PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR TRYING TO KEEP IT ACTIVE AND REINFORCING IT. I THEREFORE AM PLEASED YOU RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT PMGSE CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL OFFICER FOR THE EMBASSY TO ADMINISTER CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM. SHOULD OUR RELATIONS IMPROVE TO POINT WHERE PMGSE WOULD BE WILLING TO AUTHORIZE SUCH AN OFFICER, I AM SURE WE CAN ARRANGE IT HERE.

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2. AS YOU KNOW FROM CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DESK OFFICER, I AM QUITE ANXIOUS TO RENEW OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE JFK LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERSITY WHICH HAD AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER AND QUALITY OF AMERICAN BOOKS AND PERIODICALS FROM THE PRE-1974 PERIOD BUT LACKED RECENT CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS, NEW YORK TIMES ALPHABETICAL INDEXES, ETC. AF/E HAS ESTABLISHED WITH ICA THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO

GET PAPERS, BOOKS AND PERIODICALS FLOWING AGAIN TO THE
LIBRARY. ICA WOULD HAVE TO FIND SOME SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR

SUCH AN EFFORT BUT DOES NOT THINK THAT WOULD PRESENT AN
IMPOSSIBLE TASK IF POLITICAL DECISION IS MADE TO GO
AHEAD WITH LIBRARY PROJECT.

3. I AGREE THAT FELEKE UNLIKELY TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND
SUBJECT WILL HAVE TO BE RAISED AGAIN. I ENCOURAGE YOU
TO DO SO AT APPROPRIATE MOMENT. YOU MIGHT CONSIDER
PUSHING FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIBRARY NOW AND HOLD-
ING OFF ON FURTHER DISCUSSION OF CULTURAL OFFICER - UN-
LESS PMGSE RAISES SUBJECT - UNTIL ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR.
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER COMMENT YOU MIGHT HAVE.

4.DICK JOINS IN CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR CONTINUED GOOD
WORK. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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